consultation with the Department of Revenue. Exports, however, have not been affected as exports have been permitted under the Scheme pending the finalisation of the Entitlement Rate.

Handloom Industry

*590. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Handloom Industry is facing serious challenges from powerloom sector, and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to assist the handloom industry to meet the challenges from the other sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The Handloom Industry is facing competion from the Powerloom sector. The Government of India has taken following steps to assist the handloom industry :-

1. Eleven Textile articles have been reserved for exclusive production on handlooms.
2. State Government and other implementing agencies have been directed to implement the Handloom (Reservation of Aritilces for Production) Act, 1985 from time to time.
3. The Scheme for Central Assistance to the States/UTs for setting up of Enforcement Machinery in the States/UTs is in operation since 1986.
4. Central Enforcement Machinery with its Head Quarters at Delhi and three Regional Enforcement Offices at Calcutta, Chennai and Ahmedabad has been set up.
5. Under various Handloom Schemes, assistance is provided for supply of inputs, modernisation of looms training, welfare, research & development and marketing etc.

Investment in Public Sector Units

*591. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the capital investment in the public sector industrial units to improve their conditions;

(b) if so, the amount of capital investment made in these industries during the first year of the Eighth Plan;

(c) the estimated amount of capital investment made in the last year of the Plan;

(d) the amount raised as loan through foreign and domestic sources separately;

(e) the amount paid by these industries as interest on the amount raised as loans; and

(f) the total capital investment involved in these units and the percentage it constitute of the total capital investment involved in public sector ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The amount of fresh investment made in 165 such Central Public Sector Units during 1992-93 (Ist year of 8th Plan) was Rs. 10715.50 crores and during 1995-96 (4th year of 8th Plan) upto which period only information is available was Rs. 2234.47 crores.

(d) The loans raised by industrial units in the Central PSUs through foreign and domestic sources as on 31.3.1996 was Rs. 25827.97 crores and Rs. 47720.35 crores respectively.

(e) The amount of interest paid by industrial PSEs towards foreign and domestic loans during 1995-96 is given as under :-

(Rs. in Crores)

Interest on Loan	1995-96
From foreign parties	2003.08
From domestic sources	8867.89

(f) As on 31.3.1996, the total capital investment in 165 industrial PSEs was Rs. 122776.17 crores which constitute 68.7% of the total investment of Rs. 178627.71 crores made in 243 Central PSEs.

Trade Deficit

*592. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's trade deficit for the current year has crossed $ 5 billion mark;

(b) whether imports during February, 1997 have grown substantially;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the trade deficit is likely to cross $6